

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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INFO OAU CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1657

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, OAU

SUBJ: THE HORN AT LIBREVILLE

SUMMARY. KENYA CHARGED SOMALI GOVERNMENT WITH AGGRESSION AFTER CLASHES BETWEEN KENYAN FORCES AND SOMALI/SHIFTA BANDS IN NORTHERN KENYA. SOMALIS HAVE DENIED CHARGE BUT ETHIOPIANS ARE EXPECTED TO USE INCIDENT IN RAISING THEIR OWN COMPLAINTS OF SOMALI AGGRESSION AT SUMMIT. ETHIOPIAN-SUDANESE PROBLEMS BEING LOW KEYED TO DATE. END SUMMARY.

1. KENYAN FONMIN WAIYAKI INTERVENED AT JUNE 30 OAU CM PLENARY, STATING THAT URGENT AND GRAVE SITUATION HAD DEVELOPED WITHIN KENYA AT CONFLUX OF KENYAN, SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN BORDERS. KENYAN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT GSDR HAD SENT QTE THOUSANDS OF TROOPS UNQTE INTO KENYA FOR PURPOSE OF AGGRESSION AND REALIZATION OF GREATER SOMALILAND.

2. MINISTER STATED THAT 3,000-MAN SHIFTA/SOMALI ARMY BAND WAS INTERCEPTED BY KENYAN PATROL WEST OF MANDERA
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ON JUNE 24. IN ENSUING EXCHANGE OF FIVE, SIX KENYANS WERE KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED WHILE OPPOSING FORCE LOST SIX SOMALI ARMY PERSONNEL KILLED AND 35 WOUNDED. SHIFTA/ SOMALI GROUP THEN PROCEEDED INTO ETHIOPIA. ON JUNE 26, FONMIN REPORTED, FORCE OF 6,500 WAS SIGHTED IN SAME AREA. THIS FORCE ALLEGEDLY ATTACKED KENYAN POLICE POST AT RHAMU JUNE 27. (KENYAN SOURCE STATED KENYANS ARE

MONITORING SHIFTA/SOMALI BROADCASTS. MESSAGES ARE BEING RETRANSMITTED FROM SOMALI HEADQUARTERS AT BULLA HAWA TO MOGADISCIO FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.)

3. WAIYAKI SAID KENYAN AMBASSADOR HAD MADE FORMAL PROTEST IN MOGADISCIO, REFERRED TO SOMALI ACTS AS AGGRESSION, AND CALLED ON MEMBER STATES TO RESTRAIN GSDR FROM FURTHER ACTIONS OF THIS NATURE. IN CLOSING, FONMIN: (A) ASSURED PLENARY THAT KENYA DESIRED CLOSE AND BROTHERLY RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS, (B) NOTED PAST COOPERATION WITH GSDR, AND (C) EXPRESSED WISH FOR RETURN TO NORMALCY IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. REPLYING, HEAD OF SOMALI AFRICAN DEPARTMENT CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT CLASH HAD OCCURRED BETWEEN KENYAN AND SOMALI ARMED FORCES. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, WHILE HE COULD SPEAK FOR GSDR FORCES, HE COULD NOT SPEAK TO QUESTION OF ACTIVITIES OF LIBERATION FRONTS OPERATING IN AREA (ASSUME OROMO LIBERATION FRONT). ENTIRE INCIDENT, HE SAID, WAS ETHIOPIAN-INSPIRED PROVOCATION. GSDR HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH KENYA, AND LOOKED FORWARD TO AMICABLE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM.

5. ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION WAS MOST PLEASED BY KENYAN CHARGES AND HAS EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR KENYA. ETHIOPIANS CAN BE EXPECTED TO USE KENYAN EVIDENCE OF CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMALI INCURSIONS INTO BOTH COUNTRIES TO BACK CASE AGAINST ALLEGED SOMALI AGGRESSION WHICH IT WILL RAISE AT SUMMIT. MEMBERS OF EPMG DELEGATION REPORTEDLY LESS THAN IMPRESSED BY PERFORMANCE THUS FAR OF THEIR NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO APPARENTLY IS UNABLE TO IMPROVISE ON FLOOR AND WHO IS NOT EFFECTIVE SPEAKER.

6. HEAD OF ETHIOPIA'S AFRICAN DEPARTMENT BERHANU DINKA TOLD EMBOFF THAT HORN WILL RAISED AT SUMMIT, CONFIRMED EPMG CHAIRMAN MENGISTU WILL ATTEND, AND PREDICTED A QTE HOT UNQTE SUMMIT. HE STATED THAT AFTER FAILURE OF EARLY LOBBYING EFFORTS, SUDAN IS NO LONGER MAKING EFFORT TO RAISE SUBJECT OF MOVING OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS.

7. COMMENT: MILD LANGUAGE USED BY BOTH KENYANS AND GSDR IN THEIR EXCHANGE APPEARS INDICATE BOTH COUNTRIES DESIRE TO CLOSE MATTER WITHOUT EXCESSIVE RECRIMINATIONS. LOW KEY SUDANESE LOBBYING EFFORTS TO DATE, RUMORED SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN AGREEMENT NOT TO RAISE THEIR MUTUAL PROBLEMS AT LIBREVILLE AND RELAXED ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUDAN SUGGESTS THESE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO SEEKING TO AVOID OPEN CLASH HERE. IF THESE TRENDS HOLD,

ETHIOPIAN CHARGES OF SOMALI AGRESSION LIKELY
TO PROVE MAJOR HORN QUESTION AT UPCOMING SUMMIT.STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1986458
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE HORN AT LIBREVILLE SUMMARY. KENYA CHARGED SOMALI GOVERNMENT WITH AGGRESSION AFTER CLASHES BETWEEN KENYAN FORCES AND SOMALI/SHIFTA BA
TAGS: PORG, KE, SO, ET, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75e87f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009